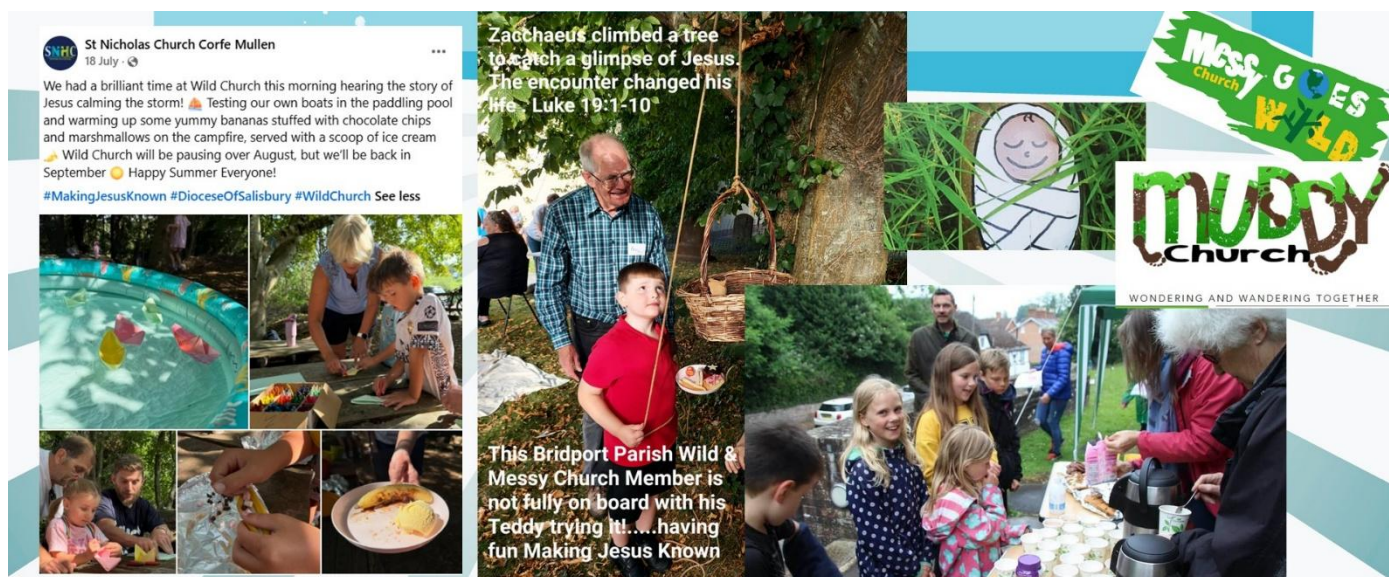


Caring for Creation and Climate Action resources

Create new discipleship, worship and community outreach opportunities.

In this document, you will find resources we and local churches have found helpful. We want to invite all age groups to participate as we look to church, school, home and community spaces to do this in.

If you would like to access any of the links, resources or examples mentioned in this document, please email growing.younger@salisbury.anglican.org. The Growing Younger team can share the relevant materials and connect you with further examples, including Revd Jo Neary's outdoor worship work through the agricultural seasons, Harnham Parish Churches' churchyard trail resources, the Growing Faith connection approach, Youthscape resources and the local primary school project.



Intergenerational outdoor church takes many forms, for example: Muddy Church and Messy Church Goes Wild. A wide range of resources, practices, session plans, and trainings are available and we, as a diocese, are keen to share our work in these fields.

It might be seasonal one-offs, like the Golden Cap team's innovative St George's Day: creating flower shields, the retelling of the real faith story of St George and a capture the flag game. Another season celebration is the Parish of Bridport's annual summer 'Come and See' harbourside visitor event.

St John's Pewsey has launched a new worshipping community, developed from the Messy Church movement 'Going a bit wild'. Utilising their churchyard, by walking around and discovering new hidden parts of nature, St John's were inspired by the Muddy Church model and simplified things after two years' experience, now running monthly gatherings.

St Nicholas, Corfe Mullen's Wild Church, illustrated in the Facebook post above, meets in a small patch of woodland, under a suspended army parachute to make it an all-weather space, at the end of the church car park. Church volunteers have made a great interactive 'forest

school' area with a fire pit for a story and soup. It has become an established church gathering, as well as feeding the indoor church community.

Find out more:

[Messy Church Goes Wild](#), [Muddy Church](#)

[Ideas for seasonal sessions](#) from Diocese of Bath and Wells



Getting outdoors in nature to explore faith, experiencing 'stilling' and prayer in the wild, walking and talking for wellbeing, champing (camping in churches!) and pilgrimage are finding expression in a growing number of ways, with children, young people and their families being supported by the local church working across different settings.

All Saints Academy have developed a pilgrimage walk with the Diocese and their local church support to the ancient Dorset patron saint shrine of St Wite, singing in acapella in ancient hilltop chapels and camping along the coastal path. [Watch a film of their first journey](#). Look out for their upcoming training and plan your own senior school pilgrimage for 2027.

Walk and Talk is a flexible, adaptable, home-grown Diocese of Salisbury project. It can be offered to small Year 6 transition groups or whole-class adventures. It includes four walks to local churches and nature spots, with 'I wonder' questions and editable, locally contextual take-home cards. This enables young people to help their families join in. Young people said they felt being carefully listened to and cherished was a key ingredient. [Diocese of Truro's Board of Education](#) has developed micro pilgrimages for primary schools.

The Church of Salway Ash in the Beaminster team organises popular, self-directed seasonal churchyard trails for the whole community and includes a children's Easter one for a Walk and Toddle. Harnham Parish Churches share a churchyard trail with stations using original art, scripture and 'I wonder' questions about nature.

Diocese of Oxford offers a contemplative toolkit, a school resource called [Space Makers](#), training, plus kits cost £50. It also works well outdoors, and offers [free downloadable sessions for clubs, Sunday school or all-age worship](#). It also offers [family resources for use in the home](#). It aims to develop wellbeing, resilience, and spiritual growth through drawing together five

Christian reflective practices from the Christian Tradition: Stilling, Noticing, Dwelling, Mending, and Blessing.



We are developing more opportunities for all age groups to get involved with Creation care and Climate action. This includes developing an Eco church leader role for young people aged 14 years old and up. This is in response to the nine out of ten young Christians who want churches to do more in this area [link to research](#). Read the [Church of England's advice on how to safely involve young people as volunteers](#). The Care of Creation mission field works across church, school, home and community, not forgetting our amazing churchyards!

[A Rocha UK](#), who are behind the initiative Eco Church, offer five flexible sessions that introduce [children](#) and [young people](#) to the five Eco church categories. The worship and teaching sections link caring for God's creation and growing as disciples; [view the 7-11 session](#). A Rocha UK also offers free national curriculum-linked education plans for primary and secondary school. They have specific faith-based content for ages 3 to 14, suitable for RE in schools; [education plans](#).

The Growing Faith connection approach is a helpful missional framework. Its suggestion to work in a rhythm fits in well with the [calendar of care of creation activities](#) published by the national church every year. Each event offers great intergenerational engagement and discipleship teaching opportunities. In the activity pictured above, the parents shared they found picking [tiny plastic nurdles](#) from a beach to be a contemplative practice!

Partner organisations offering a fresh approach include Wildlife Trusts, who offer excellent [resources to act for Wildlife](#). This Wildlife Friendly space award rewards six actions, whether it be a school grounds, ancient churchyard or home window box, [Wildlife Friendly space award](#). The Let's Go Zero Foundation offer [free support for schools](#), and the [Take the Jump](#) organisation makes caring for the climate more fun!

The annual [Love Your Burial Ground Week](#) and [Churches Count on Nature](#) have great resources for putting on a whole-community annual event or a way to start a local school relationship by enlisting their help. Bishop Karen is patron of the equally brilliant year-round [Dorset Wildlife Trust Living Churchyard project](#).



Holiday clubs that include care for creation and climate action can tap into young people's passion for nature. Planning sessions in schools or church youth groups will bring in the needs of families, and their fresh ideas can be catalysts for new relevant intergenerational outreach.

Church Green days can grow into intergenerational buzzy happenings that the whole neighbourhood attends when young people from the local school are invited to run stalls, perform and campaign; St Mark's Salisbury's annual Eco Day is run this way.

Young people can experience working together for the common good, maybe discovering God-given talents in the process. The St Paul's annual Dreamscheme, illustrated in the above flyer, left faith pebble messages in the park, a planter full of flowers for the neighbourhood and revitalised school gardens as its legacy.

Many community organisations and councils are very willing to work in partnership, helping to widen the interest in church events. Community/men's sheds in [Dorset](#) and [Wiltshire](#) offer a wide range of resources in craft, sewing and carpentry that imaginative all-age church teams can make innovative, affordable activities from. Plans for bat, hedgehog, bird and bat boxes and bee hotels from [Wildlife Trusts](#) can be prepared ready to screw together as an activity at events.

Repair cafes in Dorset and Wiltshire, and associated community groups, can offer popular activities like visible mending workshops, bike repair, sewing machines to make bunting, bookbags, tea towels and aprons and are a surprising hit with young people. Councils can add in litter pick resources, [smoothie bikes](#) and information stands on no food waste, saving households money and the planet. Local firms will often gift, for example, free sustainably sourced stones that can be decorated with water-based chalks to mark festival and Saint days, left on church paths and church doors until the rain washes them clean.

Partnering with community groups that support young people to grow food in schools, church yards and home gardens offers many embodied discipleship teaching opportunities and a fresh angle for church cafes. This local primary school project inspired young people to grow their own at home and, with community and church support, create salad planters for church teas.